

College Station

Keeping the Spirit Alive

Thousands are expected to attend the dedication of the Bonfire Memorial, November 18 at 2:30 p.m. Through its many layers of meaning, the Bonfire Memorial tells the story of the Aggie Spirit, with its deep sense of belonging, strong ethic of teamwork and leadership and enduring tradition that unites generations of Aggies. It also celebrates the tradition and history of Texas A&M and the dedication of those involved in the tragic collapse of the 1999 Bonfire. Uniting Aggies past, present and future, the memorial is comprised of the following three design elements.

Tradition Plaza marks the entrance to the memorial and reflects on the activities that bring Aggies together. Spirit Wall greets visitors with a quote from "The Spirit of Aggieland" and separates the outer world from the quiet experience of the memorial, while the Last Corps Trip Wall recites the poem traditionally read prior to the lighting of Bonfire each year. At the end of the plaza, in the shade of two large trees, begins History Walk.

History Walk portrays the 90 years of Bonfire preceding the 1999 collapse and connects the plaza to the location of the 1999 Bonfire. A granite time line comprised of 89 stones extends due north and begins with 1909, the first year Bonfire was built on campus.

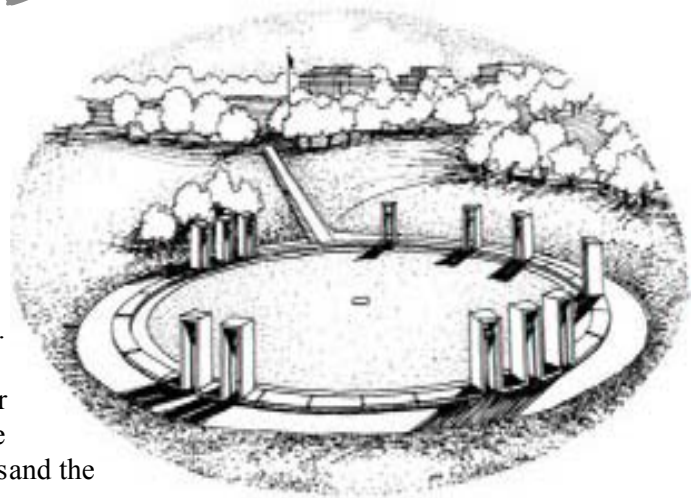
Spirit Ring surrounds the site of the 1999 Bonfire and represents the Aggie Spirit that unites individuals into something greater than themselves. The ring's twelve gateways face the hometowns of those who perished in the collapse:

Miranda Denise Adams, Christopher D. Breen, Michael Stephen Ebanks, Jeremy Richard Frampton, Jamie Lynn Hand, Christopher Lee Heard, Timothy Doran Kerlee, Jr., Lucas John Kimmel, Bryan A. McClain, Chad A. Powell, Jerry Don Self and Nathan Scott West. Together they shared a spirit and love for their school, its traditions and the Aggie family.

Twenty-seven stones with bronze inlays representing the injured students connect these gateways to complete the circle, recalling the Aggie Ring and the ring of Aggies who reunited to celebrate the Bonfire tradition year after year.

Stepping into one of the oversized gateways on the circle, the visitor symbolically fills the void left by one of the twelve Aggies, embodying the spirit of the 12th Man. Bronze portals inside each gateway were designed in concert with each family to reflect on the events, emotions, life and spirit of the individual whom the bronze represents.

All are invited to attend the November 18 public ceremony at the corner of Bizzell and New Main on the Texas A&M University campus. For parking and other information about these events, visit the Bonfire Memorial website at <http://bonfirememorial.tamu.edu>.



*Drawing by Dr. Chang-Shan Huang, Associate Professor
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Early November: Memorial will be open for early viewing without the crowds.

November 16 & 17: Memorial will be closed in preparation for the dedication ceremony.

November 17: 8 pm, Rudder Theater - "The Story of the Bonfire Memorial," a presentation by Overland Partners, Inc. designers of the Bonfire Memorial. This presentation is open to the public and will tell many of the interesting stories associated with the design and construction of the memorial.

November 18: 2:30 pm, Bizzell & New Main, Texas A&M Campus - Bonfire Memorial Dedication Ceremony - public is encouraged to attend.

